

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) An alcohol composition comprising a mixture of hydroxymethyl-substituted fatty acids or fatty acid esters comprising in terms of hydroxy distribution from greater than about 10 to less than about 95 percent mono alcohol, from greater than about 1 to less than about 65 percent diol, and from greater than about 0.1 to less than about 10 percent triol by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, and further having a diol to triol weight ratio of greater than 5/1.

19. (Original) The alcohol composition of Claim 18 further comprising from greater than about 3 to less than about 35 percent saturates.

20. (Original) The alcohol composition of Claim 18 or 19 further comprising from greater than about 0 to less than about 10 percent unsaturates.

21. (Previously presented) The alcohol composition of Claim 18 having a diol to triol weight ratio of greater than about 8/1.

22. (Original) The alcohol composition of Claim 18 comprising less than about 10 weight percent total impurities selected from the group consisting of lactols, lactones, saturated cyclic ethers, unsaturated cyclic ethers, and heavies.

23. (Original) The alcohol composition of Claim 18 comprising from greater than about 25 to less than about 70 percent monoalcohol, from greater than about 20 to less than about 50 percent diol, and from greater than about 0.5 to less than about 5 percent triol substituted fatty acids or fatty acid esters, by weight.

24. (Previously presented) The alcohol composition of Claim 18 comprising from greater than about 30 to less than about 45 percent monoalcohol, from greater than about 25 to less than about 45 percent diol, and from greater than about 1 to less than

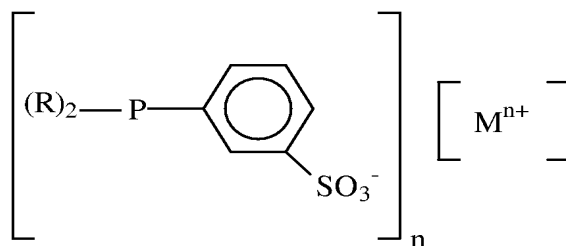
about 4 percent triol substituted fatty acids or fatty acid esters, by weight.

25. (Currently amended) The alcohol composition of Claim 18 being prepared by a process comprising (a) hydrolyzing a seed oil with water or transesterifying a seed oil with a C₁₋₈ alkanol to obtain a mixture comprising unsaturated fatty acids or unsaturated fatty acid esters of the C₁₋₈ alkanol, respectively, (b) contacting [a] the mixture comprising the unsaturated fatty acids or unsaturated fatty acid esters with carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a Group VIII transition metal-organophosphine metal salt ligand complex catalyst, and optionally, free organophosphine metal salt ligand, under conditions sufficient to hydroformylate greater than about 80 and less than about 99 weight percent of the unsaturated fatty acids or fatty acid esters to monoformyl products, based upon the conversion of one unsaturated bond per molecule of unsaturated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, so as to obtain a hydroformylation reaction mixture comprising an aldehyde composition of formyl-substituted fatty acids or fatty acid esters; ~~(b)~~ (c) separating the aldehyde composition from the hydroformylation reaction mixture; and thereafter ~~(e)~~ (d) hydrogenating the aldehyde composition with a source of hydrogen in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst under process conditions sufficient to obtain the alcohol composition.

26. (Currently amended) A process of preparing an alcohol composition comprising (a) hydrolyzing a seed oil with water or transesterifying a seed oil with a C₁₋₈ alkanol to form a mixture comprising unsaturated fatty acids or unsaturated fatty acid esters of the C₁₋₈ alkanol, respectively, (b) contacting [a] the mixture comprising unsaturated fatty acids or fatty acid esters with carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a Group VIII transition metal-organophosphine metal salt ligand complex catalyst, and optionally, free organophosphine metal salt ligand, under conditions sufficient to hydroformylate greater than about 80 and less than 99 weight percent of unsaturated fatty acids or fatty acid esters to monoformyl products, based upon the conversion of one unsaturated bond per molecule of unsaturated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, so as to obtain a hydroformylation reaction mixture comprising an aldehyde product of formyl-substituted fatty acids or fatty acid esters; ~~(b)~~ (c) separating the aldehyde product from the hydroformylation reaction mixture; and thereafter ~~(e)~~ (d)

hydrogenating the aldehyde product with a source of hydrogen in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst under process conditions sufficient to obtain the alcohol composition comprising a mixture of hydroxymethyl-substituted fatty acids or fatty acid esters comprising in terms of hydroxy distribution from greater than about 10 to less than about 95 percent mono alcohol, from greater than about 1 to less than about 65 percent diol, and from greater than about 0.1 to less than about 10 percent triol by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, and further having a diol to triol weight ratio of greater than 5/1.

27. (Original) The process of Claim 26 wherein the ligand is a monosulfonated tertiary organophosphine represented by the following formula:



wherein each R group individually represents a radical containing from 1 to about 30 carbon atoms; wherein M represents a metal cation selected from the group consisting of alkali and alkaline earth metals; and wherein n has a value of 1 or 2 corresponding to the valence of the particular metal cation M.

28. (Original) The process of Claim 27 wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of the monosulfonated salts of triphenylphosphine, diphenylcyclohexylphosphine, phenyldicyclohexylphosphine, tricyclohexylphosphine, diphenylisopropylphosphine, phenyldiisopropylphosphine, diphenyl-t-butylphosphine, phenyldi-t-butylphosphine, and mixtures thereof.

29. (Original) The process of Claim 26 wherein the Group VIII transition metal is selected from rhodium, ruthenium, cobalt, iridium, and mixtures thereof.

30. (Original) The process of Claim 26 wherein the hydroformylation is conducted at a temperature of greater than about 45°C and less than about 200°C and a total pressure greater than about 1 psia (6.9 kPa) and less than about 10,000 psia (69 MPa).

31. (Original) The process of Claim 26 wherein the aldehyde composition is separated from the hydroformylation reaction mixture by extraction.

32. (Original) The process of Claim 26 wherein the hydrogenation catalyst comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of Group VIII, Group I, and Group II metals and mixtures thereof.

33. (Original) The process of Claim 32 wherein the hydrogenation catalyst comprises Raney nickel or supported nickel.

34. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 26 wherein the hydrogenation is conducted at a temperature greater than about 50°C and less than about 250°C and at a pressure greater than about 50 psig (345 kPa) and less than about 1,000 ~~psia~~ psig (6,895 kPa).

Claim 35. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 18 wherein the ester of the hydroxymethyl-substituted fatty acid esters is derived from a [C₁₋₁₅] C₁₋₄ alkanol.